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LETTER DATED 24 MAY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF FRANCE, THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, SPAIN, THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from our Governments, we have the honour to send you the enclosed statement made by our Foreign Ministers in Washington on 22 May 1993 and to request that this be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

The Permanent Representative
of France
(Signed) Jean-Bernard MERIMEE

The Permanent Representative
of the Russian Federation
(Signed) Yuliy M. VORONTSOV

The Permanent Representative
of Spain
(Signed) Don J. Antonio YAÑEZ-BARNUEVO

The Permanent Representative
of the United Kingdom
(Signed) Sir David HANNAY

The Permanent Representative of
the United States of America
(Signed) Madeleine Korbel ALBRIGHT

Annex

[Original: English/French/Russian]

Joint action programme

France, the Russian Federation, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America are profoundly concerned that the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina is continuing despite the strenuous efforts of the international community and the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, which they strongly support, to bring an end to it.

We shall continue to work urgently to help extinguish this terrible war and to achieve a lasting and equitable settlement.

We also have common views on the most productive immediate steps to take. These should lead to implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions as well as the elaboration of further steps.

1. Humanitarian assistance. We will continue providing humanitarian assistance for the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and will insist that all parties allow humanitarian aid to pass without hindrance.

2. Sanctions. The economic sanctions imposed by the United Nations Security Council against Serbia and Montenegro must be rigorously enforced by all members of the United Nations until the necessary conditions set out in Security Council resolution 820, including the withdrawal of Bosnian Serb troops from territories occupied by force, are met for lifting the sanctions.

3. Sealing borders. We note the pledge of the Belgrade authorities to close the border with Bosnia-Herzegovina, in order to put pressure on the Bosnian Serbs to accept the peace plan. We are watching to see if the border closure is effective. Although the primary responsibility for enforcing this step belongs to Belgrade, we can assist, for instance by placing monitors on the borders or providing technical expertise or conducting aerial surveillance. We also note the willingness expressed by the Zagreb authorities for monitoring to take place along the border between Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

4. "Safe areas". The concept of "safe areas" in Bosnia-Herzegovina, as France and others have proposed, could make a valuable contribution. We will work to secure early adoption of the new United Nations Security Council resolution now under discussion. The United Kingdom and France along with other nations already have forces serving with UNPROFOR in "safe areas". Troops from other countries, including Spain and Canada, are playing an important role on the ground. The Russian Federation is considering making forces available in Bosnia in addition to its forces presently in Croatia. The United States is prepared to meet its commitment to help protect UNPROFOR forces in the event they are attacked and request such action. Further contributions from other countries would be most welcome.

5. No-Fly Zone. The No-Fly Zone should continue to be enforced in Bosnia.

6. War Crimes Tribunal. We support the rapid establishment of the War Crimes Tribunal, so that those guilty of atrocities may be brought to justice.

7. Durable peace. Negotiated settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina, building on the Vance-Owen process and intensified international cooperation and effort, is the way a durable peace can be established. France, Russia, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States will assist and actively participate in a continued political process to this end. To the extent that the parties decide to implement promptly mutually agreed provisions of the Vance-Owen Plan, this is to be encouraged.

8. Central Bosnia-Herzegovina. We are deeply concerned about the fighting between Bosnian Croatian and Bosnian Government forces and the related "ethnic cleansing", and we agree that Croatia should be put on notice that assistance to Bosnian Croatian forces engaged in these activities could result in the international community imposing sanctions on Croatia.

9. Containment. We will cooperate closely to enhance efforts to contain the conflict and prevent the possibility that it will spill over into neighbouring countries. We would regard such a development with the utmost seriousness.

10. Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. It is essential that everyone in the region understands that aggression against the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia would have grave consequences. We will support an increase in the international presence there in consultation with the authorities in Skopje. The United States is considering a contribution to this effort.

11. Kosovo. We favour an increase in the international monitoring presence in Kosovo. International standards of human rights should be strictly respected in the formerly autonomous region of Kosovo, although we do not support declarations of independence there.

12. Croatia. The same considerations apply to the Serb-populated areas of Croatia. We will work for the renewal and strengthening of UNPROFOR's mandate. The croatian Government and the local Serb authorities should maintain the cease-fire and constructively pursue their dialogue leading to settling practical, economic, and, eventually, political problems between them.

13. Further measures. We will keep open options for new and tougher measures, none of which is prejudged or excluded from consideration.

We five members of the United Nations Security Council are firmly united and firmly committed to taking these immediate steps. We will work closely with the United Nations and the involved regional organizations as we carry out these efforts.